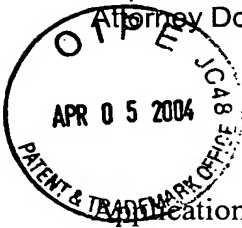


Application No. 10/648,882
Paper Dated April 1, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 388-031637



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/648,882
Applicants : Hiroyuki Bekki et al.
Filed : August 27, 2003
Title : FLEXIBLE PIPE JOINT
Group Art Unit : 3752
Confirmation No. : 4883 Customer No. : 28289
Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit this Information Disclosure Statement together with a completed Form PTO/SB/08A and one (1) copy of each foreign reference listed thereon.

Listed on Form PTO/SB/08A is Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-054487 for which a translation is provided. The balance of the prior art listed was cited in a European Search Report, dated January 8, 2004. A copy of the Search Report is enclosed and indicates the relevance of each reference cited therein. A copy of the abstract for JP 2001041372 is enclosed.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Washington, D.C. 22313-1450 on April 1, 2004.

Florence P. Trevethan
(Name of Person Mailing Document)

Florence P. Trevethan
Signature

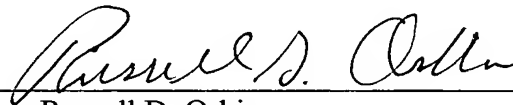
04/01/2004
Date

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), no fee is believed to be due for the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement, as it is being submitted before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. Nevertheless, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650. One (1) original and two (2) copies of this Information Disclosure Statement are enclosed.

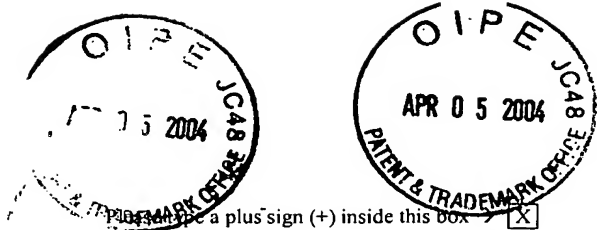
Respectfully submitted,

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Approved for use through 10/31/2001. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/648,882
				Filing Date	August 27, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Hiroyuki Bekki
				Group Art Unit	3752
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	388-031637

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ²			
		167,505		J.J. Crawford	09/07/1875	
		3,475,039		J.E. Ortloff	10/28/1969	
		3,837,685		Miller	09/24/1974	
		4,026,119		Dotti	05/31/1977	
		5,286,071		Storage	02/15/1994	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Kind Office ³ Number ⁴ Code				
		JP 10-054487	Yano Giken KK	24.02.1998		Translation
		JP 2001041372	Suido Gijutsu Kaihatsu Kiko:KK	13.02.2001		Abstract

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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